

Baal Sikheya

Tales of Wisdom

Part – I

Age 5 – 8 Years

An Initiative by
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Contents

Shaheed Bishan Singh	4
Sweets From A Gum Arabic Tree.....	6
Ball In <i>Jamuna</i>	8
Satgur Jagjeet Singh Ji And Five <i>Kakaars</i>	10
Wali Kandhari	12
Bhai Rai Singh	14
Bhagat Prahlad.....	16
The Learning Of Service	18
The Golden Griddle.....	20
Human Religion – Hard Work	22
Mode Of Service (Bathing).....	24
Ram Setu	25

Shaheed Bishan Singh

Bishan Singh was a small child of twelve years who sacrificed his life for the sake of his country and religion.



Bishan Singh went to Malerkotla with his parents on 17th January 1872. His father was S. Maha Singh, and his mother was Khem Kaur.

Cowan, the then Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana, ordered to fire Namdhari Sikhs with cannons without any trial in the court. Bishan Singh saw the Sikhs being fired at by cannons, but he was not frightened.

Mrs. Cowan took pity when she saw the innocent and blooming

face of Bishan Singh. She requested her husband to spare the child.

Cowan agreed to his wife on one condition – he agreed to spare Bishan Singh if the boy would say that he is not a Sikh of (Satguru) Ram Singh.

Bishan Singh was a brave boy. He said that he would like to say something in Cowan's ear. Bishan Singh was taken to Cowan. As Cowan bent down to listen to him, Bishan Singh caught hold of his beard very tightly and said, "*Oye Billia*, Will you say that I am not a Sikh of Satguru Ram Singh ji again? I was, I am, and I will always be the Sikh of Satguru Ram Singh ji."

Cowan shrieked for help, but Bishan Singh did not let go. Soldiers also tried a lot, but all in vain. Finally, the soldiers first cut off Bishan Singh's hands, and then beheaded him. In this way, Bishan Singh became an immortal martyr.

Sweets From a Gum Arabic Tree

Langar (a communal free kitchen) had been distributed. Suddenly, plentiful *sangat* (local community) came there. Guru Nanak Dev ji instructed his sons Sri Chand ji and Laxmi Das ji, “Beta Climb on this gum Arabic tree and shake it. Sweets will fall, which we will distribute among *sadh sangat*”. Disobeying their father, both of them moved away saying, “Pitaji how can sweets fall from a tree?”



Then, Satguru ji called Lehna ji and said, “Just shake one branch of this gum Arabic tree. Sweets will fall, which we will

distribute among sadh sangat ji.” Lehna ji was a true Sikh of Guru ji. He always considered him God and he had full faith in the words of Guru ji. He believed every word Satguru ji had said would happen in reality.

Lehna ji immediately stood up and said, “Sat Vachan Ji”. He went to that tree. Before climbing the tree, he spread one sheet under the tree to protect the sweets from mud. As Lehna ji started shaking the branches of the tree, sweets started falling from it. Sweets were distributed among the sadh sangat open-heartedly by Guru Nanak Dev ji.

Guru Nanak Dev ji was pleased with Bhai Lehna ji. It is true that if we have faith in our Satguru ji, all our tasks will be taken care of.

Ball In Jamuna

Lord Krishna in his childhood was playing with his companions near the river Jamuna. Krishna kicked the ball so hard that it went into the river Jamuna.



Everyone was afraid of going into the water because a poisonous snake, *Kali Naag*, used to live there. It had killed many people with its poison. But Lord Krishna was not afraid, he jumped into the water. When Krishna jumped into the water, *Kali Naag* came out and spread its hood, trying to kill Krishna. Lord Krishna had a great fight with him and in the end, Krishna won. He caught *Kali Naag*. He took back his ball from it and came out of the river.

All the friends were very happy to see Krishna coming out of the water with *Kali Naag*. Krishna told *Kali Naag*, “Go to some far-off place and never try to kill anyone. It will be good for you.”

Kali Naag, saving his life, moved to a place very far away. Now the fear of *Kali Naag* was no longer among the people. Lord Krishna and his friends started playing near river Jamuna without any kind of fear.

Hail Lord Krishna

Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji & Five *Kakaars*

Satguru Jagjit Singh ji used to preach to everyone to follow the norms of *Sikhi mariyada* (decorum of sikhism). As per his mandate, “We should always possess five *kakaars* (five symbols of sikhism given by Guru Gobind Singh Ji i.e. *Kanga, Kara, Kirpan, Kesh, Kacchhera*) right from our childhood.” Satguru ji used to preach the same to his family also.



Once when Satguru ji's daughter, Bibi Sahib Kaur ji, was just 5 years old, she came to take her meals. Satguru ji asked her “Do you have all the *kakaars* with you?” She replied, “I don't have my

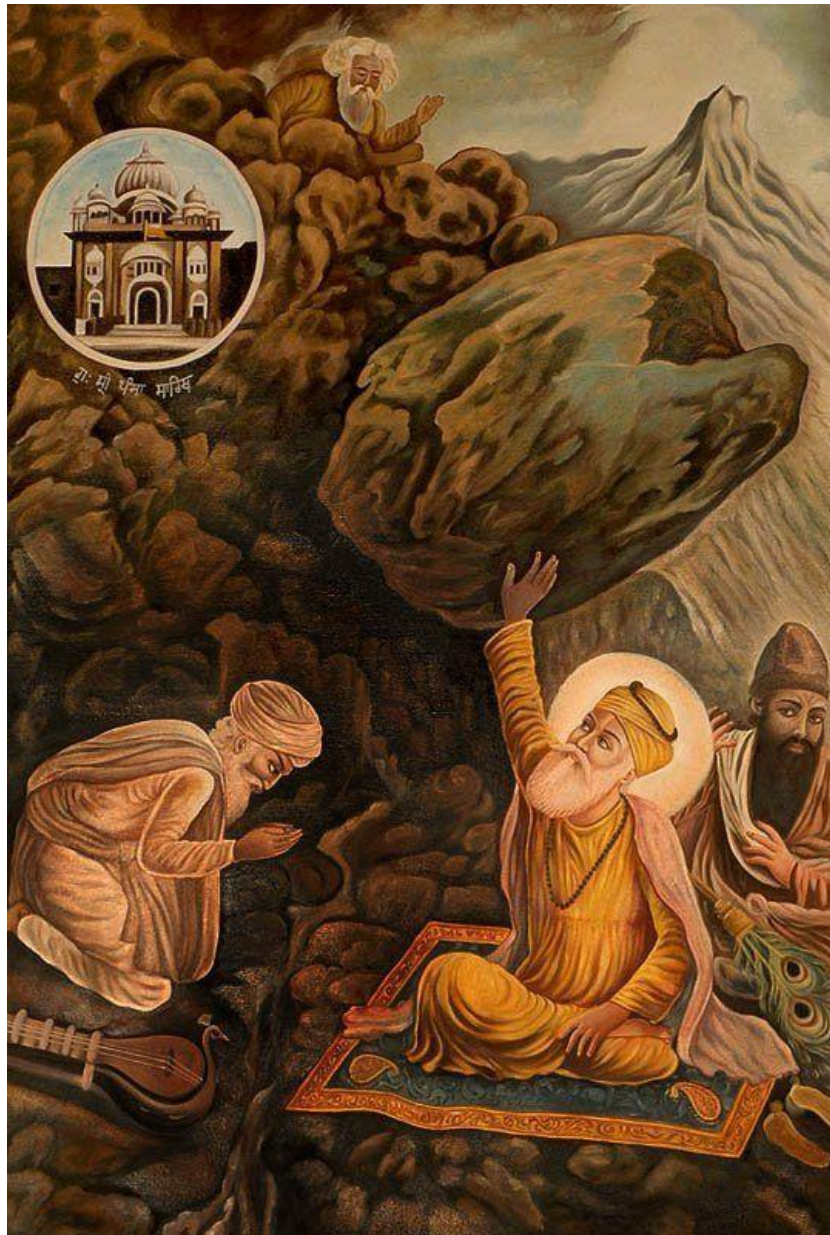
Kanga right now.”

He explained to her with great affection, that one should always possess five *kakaars* as per norms of *Sikhi Mariyada*. He instructed her to go and get her *kanga*. Biba ji went running and came back with her *kanga*. Now she had all the five *kakaars* with her. Biba ji had her meals with Satguru ji happily.

Moral: As per the mandate of Satguru ji, we should always possess our five kakaars with us.

Wali Kandhari

Satguru Nanak Dev Ji, Bhai Bala and Bhai Mardana reached Hasan Abdal. Bhai Mardana was very thirsty, but there was no water nearby.



There was only one spring on a hill. Wali Kandhari had filled some water from that pond. Bhai Mardana requested Wali

Kandhari to give him some water so that he could quench his thirst, but the arrogant Wali Kandhari refused to give him water and asked - why do you live with the Hindu Guru? Satguru Ji sent Mardana again. Wali Kandhari again, did not give him any water but instead, started hitting him with a stick. Bhai Mardana came back.

Satguru Ji blessed Bhai Mardana. He lifted a small stone, and a small spring of water appeared from where the stone was lifted. Bhai Mardana drank plenty of water from it and took a bath as well. Satguruji drew all the water from the pond.

Wali Kandhari angrily rolled a large boulder from up the hill, downwards. Bhai Mardana was scared, but Satguru Ji stopped the stone with the palm of his hand. The palm got imprinted on the stone.

Wali Kandhari again came down to Satguru Ji. He apologized to Satguru Ji. With this, Satguru Ji's teachings were to serve all and to always have good intentions.

Gurdwara Panja Sahib stands on this site, where this boulder with Satguru Ji's hand imprint can be viewed.

Bhai Rai Singh

Bhai Rai Singh was a very dear and devout Sikh of Satguru Ram Singh Ji. He was ready to obey every *Hukam* (order) of Satguru Ji. Satguru Ram Singh Ji ordered Rai Singh to bring decorum (Rules and regulations to maintain Sikhism) from Hazur Sahib for Sikh care. Bhai Rai Singh started his journey from Sri Bhaini Sahib as per the order of Satguru Ji. On the way, he met a companion who walked along with him.



However, he was a fraudster and wanted to rob Bhai Rai Singh whenever he got the chance. As they walked through the

forest, it got dark with nightfall and both of them decided to lay down under the trees to rest. Bhai Rai Singh was a great practitioner of Naam Simran.

First, he laid down his *Asan* (cloth upon which one sits during meditation), practiced *Naam Simran*, and then said his *Ardas* before he fell asleep.

While he was asleep, suddenly, the roar of a lion woke Rai Singh up. He saw that the lion had killed his companion in one fell swoop. He did not get scared but instead, calmly joined his hands at the feet of Satguru Ram Singh Ji and prayed for salvation. Satguru Ram Singh Ji, hearing the call of his Sikh, at once appeared on his horse and protected his Sikh from the lion. Bhai Rai Singh was very happy to see Satguru Ram Singh Ji. He brought the decorum from Hazur Sahib and handed it over to Satguru Ram Singh Ji and this way, he fulfilled Satguruji's order.

Bhagat Prahlad

Prahlad was a small child. He was a great devotee of Lord Vishnu. His father, Harnakhash, was a great king. Being arrogant, he wanted people to worship him.



His father did not like the fact that his son Prahlad worshipped Lord Vishnu. He persuaded his son not to worship Vishnu but to worship him instead.

This did not affect Prahlad because Lord Vishnu resided in his body and mind. He disobeyed his father.

Father Harnakhash wanted to teach his son Prahlad a lesson. He would throw the boy into the water and sometimes from a hill but was unable to harm him. Lord Vishnu always protected Prahlad. Defeated, Harnakhash called his sister Holika, who had a shawl that could not be burned.

On Holika's arrival, a Bonfire was lit, and Holika draped the shawl, took Prahlad along with her, and sat in the fire. Holika's shawl fell on Prahlad and by the grace of God, Holika was burnt but Prahlad came out of the fire with a smile on his face.

Moral: The arrogant and conceited man is always defeated, while the worshiper of God always wins.

The Learning of Service

Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji used to be very happy with the service of devotees. At a young age, he used to serve as Beant Ji.

Once seeing Beant Ji washing the dishes of Sri Bhaini Sahib Sadh Sangat, a Sikh passed a petition to Sri Satguru Pratap Singh, “Sachey Patshah Ji, your eldest son Beant Ji should not wash our used dishes.”

Sri Satguru Ji said, “You let him learn how to do *Seva* (service) and pray to Sachey Patshah Ji to let him learn how to serve the Sadh Sangat and give him confidence.”



While Beant ji was doing seva like this, his grandmother, Mata Jeevan Kaur, ji came. She was very happy to see her grandson doing seva. She also sat along with Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji and began to do the service. She said “My father (Suba Khushhal Singh) had advised me that if I wanted to become a *Sevak*, I should not indulge in opulence and luxuries. That advice is always wrapped around me.”

Mata ji said that Guru ji's *hukam* is that the service of washing used dishes removes dirt from the mind.

The Golden Griddle

When Sri Satguru Ram Singh Ji was 20 years old, he joined the army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Even while in the army, he always remained absorbed in devotion to the Lord. Due to this *Bhajan Bandagi*, his platoon was named “Bhagatan Wali Paltan”.



While serving in the army one day, he was cooking *parshadas* (also called chapatti or roti, an unleavened flat bread made of whole wheat flour) on the iron griddle. The *Subedar's* (commissioned officer) servant came and said, "I will cook

parshadas for the *Subedar* first. You may cook it later." Hearing this, Satguru ji drew a line with his kirpan (a short sword or knife with a curved blade) in the centre of the iron griddle and said, "You may cook the *parshadas* on half of the iron griddle and I will cook on the other half of it."

After Satguru Ram Singh Ji drew the line, his side became gold, and the other side remained iron. Seeing this spectacle, the servant ran and called Subedar Kahan Singh. Seeing this spectacular view, the Subedar fell at Satguru ji's feet and became his Sikh.

Human Religion – Hard Work

Guru Gobind Singh Ji once asked for drinking water. Hearing this, a Sikh brought it. When Satguru Ji was about to drink the water, his eyes fell on the hands of that Sikh. The Satguru asked, “Bhai Sikh, your hands are very soft and gentle”. The Sikh said with great pride, "Yes, there are many servants in my house. I never have to do anything. That is why my hands are soft. Today for the first time I am offering water to you.”



Hearing this, Satguru Ji returned the vessel of water and said, “Those hands who have never worked, never served, how can they be pious? Go, take away this water, I will not drink water from your impure hands. Purity can only be achieved through hard work and service. Work hard and serve others.” Hearing this sermon, the Sikh began to serve.

Satguru Ji, despite having many *sevaks* (*servants*), used to do his work and *seva* (*service*) himself, because he considered hard work and *seva* to be a human religion.

Mode of Service (Bathing)

Sri Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji was always pleased with the people who did service for others. He used to take time out of his routine to do *seva* (service) and teach *sadh sangat* the way of service.

Whenever it was *Jap Prayog* (meditation) in Sri Bhaini Sahib, the lakh-and-a-quarter recitations of the *Chandi-di-vaar paath*, or *Havan*, the *Sadh Sangat* would come to Sri Bhaini Sahib with great enthusiasm. To serve the *Sadh Sangat*, Satguru Ji himself looked after the arrangements very keenly. Not only that, but he would also come to the well in the middle of the night with a sheet or shawl draped around him to cover himself. Satguru ji would then draw water from the well and help bathe the *Sadh Sangat* with his own hands.

Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji would urge everyone to do *seva* humbly but not to show it. That is why Satguru ji too, used to serve secretly. The *Sadh Sangat* did not even know that they had been bathed by Satguru Jagjit Singh Ji, with his own hands!

RAM SETU

In the era of *Treta* (the second era out of four world eras), Lord Ram Chandra went into exile for 14 years on the orders of his father, Maharaja Dasharatha. He resided at Panchvati in the forest. He was accompanied by his younger brother Laxman Ji and his wife Mata Sita Ji.



King Ravana of Lanka was a great scholar, a knower of the Vedas, and a strong man. But due to his pride, his intellect became corrupt, and he abducted Mata Sita ji deceitfully. Lord

Ram Chandra found out that Sita had been taken by Lankapati Ravana. He formed an ape army and was fully supported by Angad, Sugreev, Jamwant, and Hanuman. Ravana's younger brother Vibhishan also joined Lord Ram Chandra.

The army was ready, but crossing the sea was not an easy task. Lord Ram Chandra requested the sea to give them the way. The sea said, “In your army, there is an ape named Nal, who can build a bridge to cross the sea.” The ape Nal was ordered and the work on the bridge began. The stones were thrown into the water, but they sunk. Then, Nal wrote the name of Lord Rama on a stone before throwing it into the water and the stone started floating. Thus, the name of Lord Rama was inscribed on every stone, and in five days the entire bridge was completed. It was named '*Ram Setu*'.

After crossing the bridge, the army reached Lanka and a fierce battle ensued. After the battle, Lord Ram Chandra killed the arrogant Ravana and brought back Mata Sita.